

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Robert Dillingham, Farina United Methodist Church, Farina, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Creator of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we come to You as broken vessels, called to Your holy task of governance. Be with the families of these gathered, build up, equip, protect, and empower all to the task before them this day.

Bring together through Your spirit those who are divided, and those who divide. Bring healing, bring unity, as You continually offer healing and hope to all of creation.

Omnipresent Creator, You have guided creation through the most difficult times. You have called us to this time and to this place, to this activity, to this body. We have followed that calling.

Now guide us, empower us, embolden us to this holy work of service and representation of Your creation. Guide us, O great Jehovah.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. STEFANIK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING REVEREND ROBERT DILLINGHAM

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Robert Dillingham who led us in the opening prayer. He is a pastor in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church where he serves Farina, Illinois.

Reverend Dillingham is both a chaplain and a volunteer firefighter with the Farina Fire Department and is also a chaplain with the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, division 54. He serves as a hospice chaplain with the Hospital Sisters Health Systems through St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital in Effingham, Illinois, where he serves patients from over 20 counties in the central part of my congressional district.

In addition to his service as chaplain, Reverend Dillingham is also on the board of the Farina food pantry and is a clergy care guide, where he is a pastoral presence in the lives of over 70 pastors.

It is my honor to welcome Reverend Dillingham and his wife, Ashley, who is in the gallery today, and personally thank him for offering this morning's prayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. STEPHEN NIMER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Stephen Nimer on his successful 5 years as the director of the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at my alma mater, the University of Miami. Go Canes.

Throughout his distinguished career as a noted leukemia and stem cell transplant researcher and clinician, Dr. Nimer has dedicated himself to caring for cancer patients in their greatest hour of need. Dr. Nimer has propelled the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center into prominence by bringing together a superb team of leading medical experts who have transformed the center into one of the worldwide leaders in cancer treatment and innovation.

Because of Dr. Nimer's efforts, people from South Florida, and indeed from all over the world, have come to view Sylvester as the ultimate destination for cutting-edge cancer programs, as well as a refuge and helping hand as they deal with this difficult disease.

Congratulations to Dr. Nimer on a successful 5-year tenure at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. Our South Florida community is indeed blessed to have you at the helm.

#### DON'T SILENCE THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it looks like my colleagues have wasted no time moving back to familiar territory after their healthcare disaster last week.

Instead of fighting over how many people should lose health coverage, they decided that it is easier to unite around the shared cause of climate denial. This week President Trump announced plans to gut President Obama's landmark Clean Power Plan, and the House will vote on legislation to block the EPA from reviewing peer reviewed scientific research when forming regulations.

So think about that for a second—the majority couldn't agree on how many people should lose healthcare coverage; so they are united around the shared cause of climate denial. The President likes to claim that climate change is a hoax created by the Chinese.

Well, I know that the President and his party have developed a disdain for fact-checkers, but silencing the scientific community takes things to a whole new level.

Mr. Speaker, I have to ask: Can my colleagues handle the truth?

#### LIFT THE RELOCATION BURDEN FROM MILITARY SPOUSES ACT

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our resilient military families. These families endure countless relocations and deployments every couple of years, transitioning to new schools, new jobs, and fitting into new communities.

Military spouses wear their own patches of service and share a true sense of duty to our country. They sacrifice a great deal of themselves amid strain and the unknown, while providing unyielding support to their spouse in uniform.

Military spouses are often employed in professions which require new licensing that vary from State to State, with fees and wait times. To alleviate this burden and provide predictability in the lives of military spouses and their families, I have reintroduced the Lift the Relocation Burden from Military Spouses Act.

Military spouses serve, too, and my bill will help alleviate unnecessary stress and expenses, help make job changes easier, and will give these spouses and their families some deserved predictability as they serve their Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

#### LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)